Hezbollah activity, sponsored by Iran and Syria, that is directly designed to thwart international efforts to improve the situation on the ground.

The failure of the Government of Lebanon to restore peace and security, ensure the return of its effective authority, disband and disarm Hezbollah, and prevent cross-border attacks from its territory is what compels Israel to engage in defensive actions and is the direct cause of instability in the area. Each of these failures represents a direct negation of basic obligations under international law and the provisions of Security Council resolutions, including resolutions 425 (1978), 426 (1978), 1310 (2000), 1337 (2001), 1373 (2001), 1553 (2004), 1559 (2004) and 1566 (2004).

Lebanon, Syria and Iran are not absolved of their legal obligations to fight terrorism, like any other State, as part of the global campaign against international terrorism. The international community should place the responsibility where it belongs and do its utmost to bring about an end to this dangerous situation, and demand nothing less than full compliance by these countries with their international obligations.

I should be grateful if you could arrange to have the text of the present letter circulated as an official document of the fifty-ninth session of the General Assembly, under agenda items 148, "Measures to eliminate international terrorism", and 36, "The situation in the Middle East" and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Ambassador Dan **Gillerman**
Permanent Representative